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Orwell and Socialism: A short analysis of Orwell's selected works

Reading the works of Orwell from his first major work *Burmese Days* to his last work *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, one instantly comes to recognize the political propensity of the writer. All the major works of Orwell have political thesis with high autobiographical elements. These political motifs are part and parcel of Orwell's development as a writer in general and as a democratic socialist in particular. Apart from the novels of Orwell, he also wrote many essays, radio broadcasts etc., which give us insight into the political inclinations of the writer.

Orwell from the very childhood, when his father was serving in the Indian imperial services, and he was studying in some boarding; started despising the English hypocrisy, mannerism, modernity, etiquettes . It was because of the impartiality with the students on the basis of economical background. He failed to overcome the void created by his school environment which he called as "the worst" phase of his life in his essay, *Such Such Were the Joys*. He, out of the same thinking preferred to go to Burma and serve there, instead of going for higher education from Oxford or other Universities. He was also befooled by Macaulay, eulogizing the British Empire' saying with the slogans like 'White Man's Burden' that the colonizers are educating the world. His experience in Burma came out in the form of his first major work *Burmese Days* , an anti-imperialist novel.

He was guilty with himself for colluding with the colonialists and exploiting the commoners in Burma. Coming back to England, he personally experienced the poverty in London and France, and summed up it in his two works: *Down and Out in Paris and London*, and *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*. Here in these works, one can see the development of Orwellian socialism. He seems to be impressed by the Marxist-Leninist Socialism of classless society with everything state controlled.

It was his personal experience in the Spanish Civil in the 1930s that transformed him tremendously. He had joined, POUM, a Spanish Communist militia group fighting against Fascism of Mussolini. Later when Communists succeeded, there started political assassinations under the pretext of Trotsky, an enemy of Communist Russia, intruded among them. Orwell had barely survived with a bullet near his throat. His later works: *Coming Up for Air*, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty –Four*; reflect contemporary apocalyptic apprehensions during the war days as well as the general anxiety before the Second World

War. He also took world leaders like Churchill etc., to task for making Stalin as war hero after the Great War.

Orwell became a democratic socialist and showed his repulsion for Stalinism. He warned the world, after the seizure of Berlin that ended the Second World War, in his beast fable, *Animal Farm*, where he stated as the main thesis of his work that Communist Russia under Stalin is untrustworthy. He showed high reverence to Marx and Lenin in his novella, *Animal Farm*, calling them saints. He also showed his respect for Trotsky, who would have been successor of Lenin, politically assassinated by Stalin. Orwell had seen the totalitarian governments of Communism, Nazism, Fascism and even Ottoman empire, out of them only communism survived after the end of the Second World War. The last novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, came out as a warning, where Orwell had indirectly stated that if Stalinism of Russia will be allowed to flourish, the world may be nightmarish technological state with minimum freedom. The omnipresence of Big Brother spying and brainwashing all, even children spying their parents as state agents etc., reflect Stalin cast in the future technological world.

He had seen much of socialism in different political scenarios and also shared his wisdom that the people expect too much from their leaders. There are good and bad people everywhere but unfortunately it is not good but bad which prevails. The Spanish civil war, the Bolshevik revolution came out on the principles of socialism of classless society propagated by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. Later with the end of revolution, Spain became a puppet state of Stalin and Russia worst than any totalitarian state. Orwell finally spoke for democratic socialism, because here at least people have control over the formation of government and their rulers cannot be as despotic as totalitarians.

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